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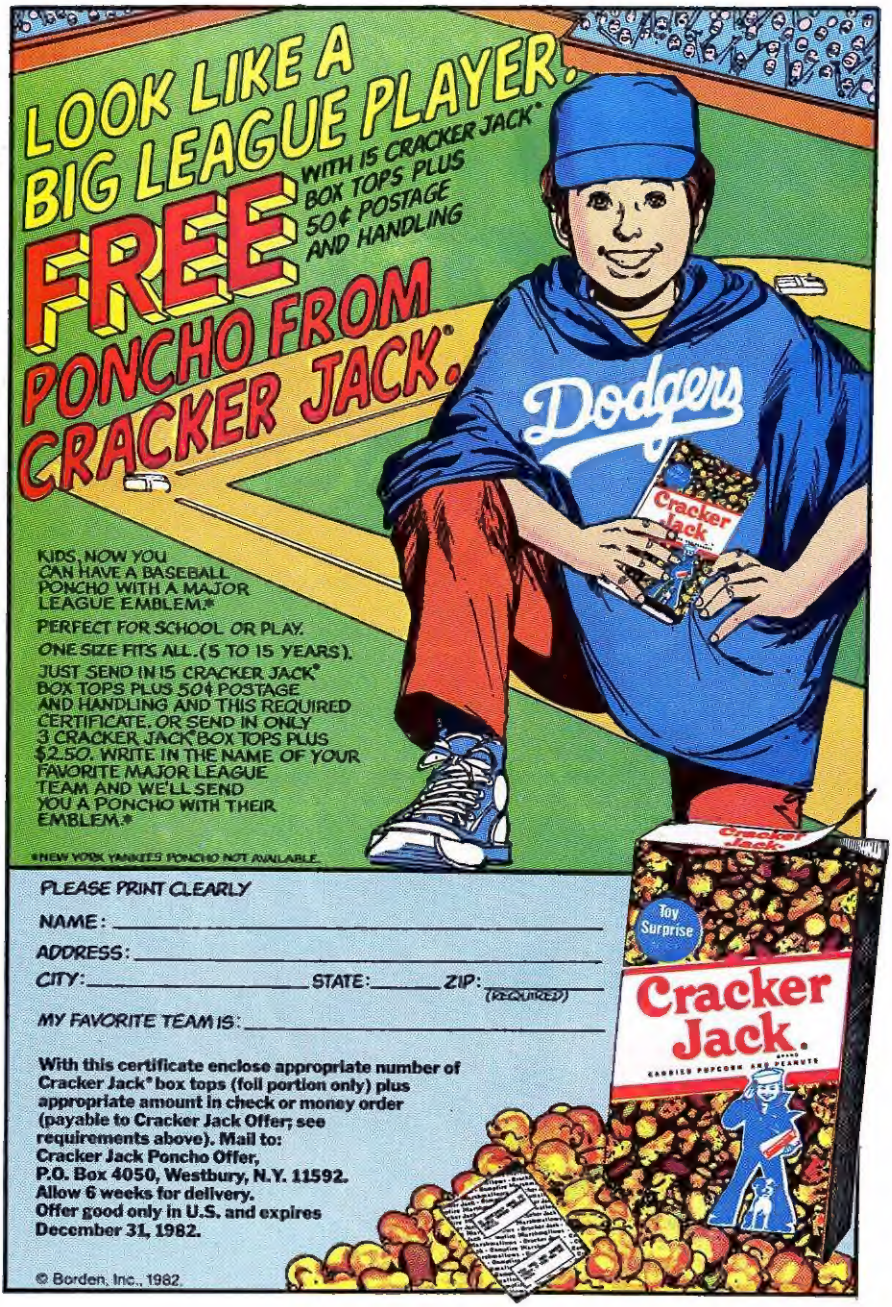
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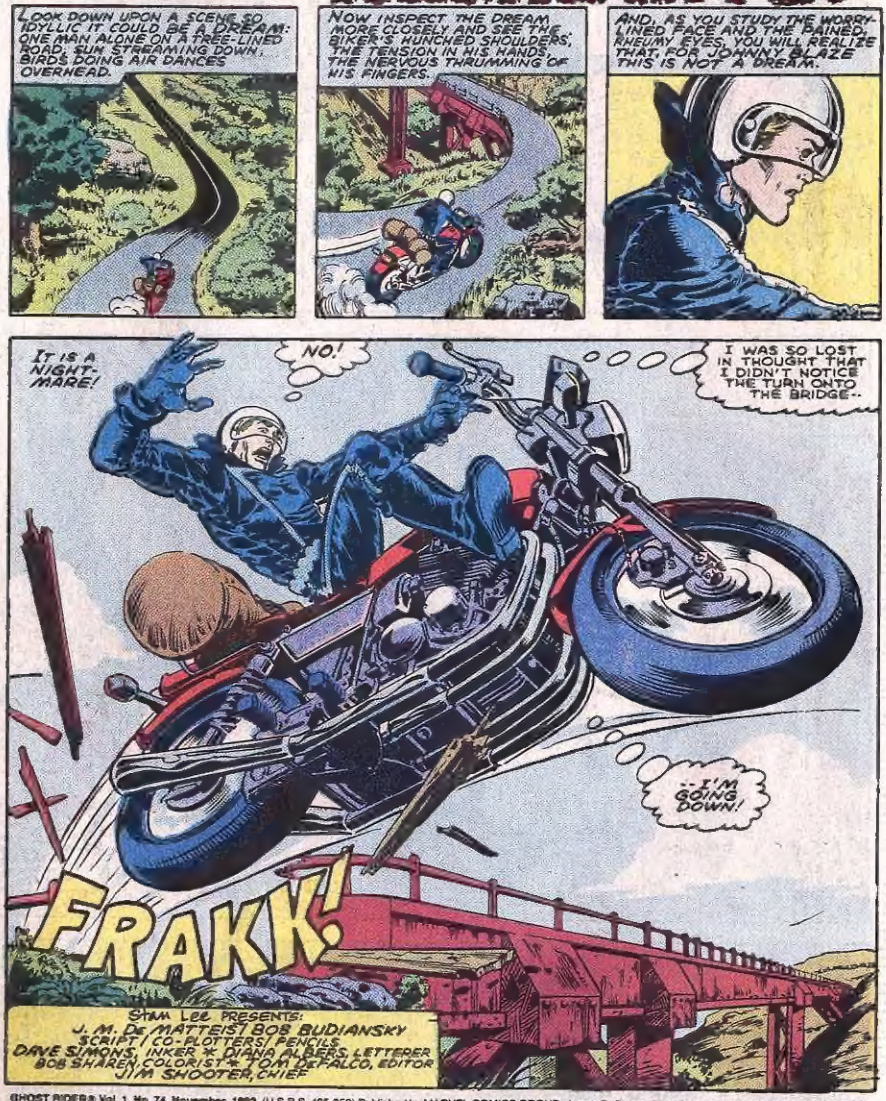

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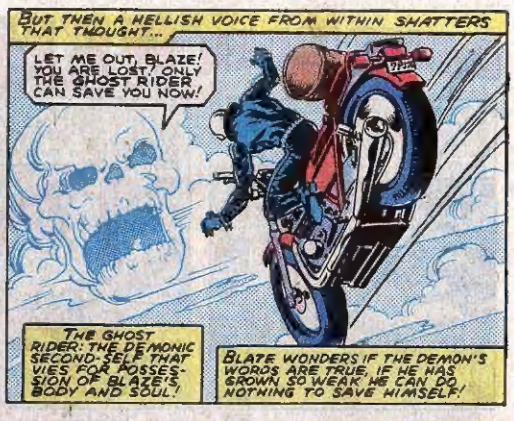

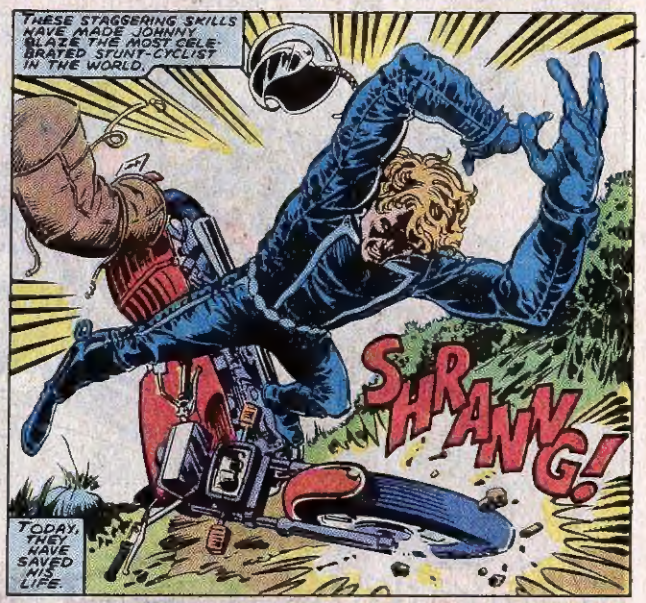

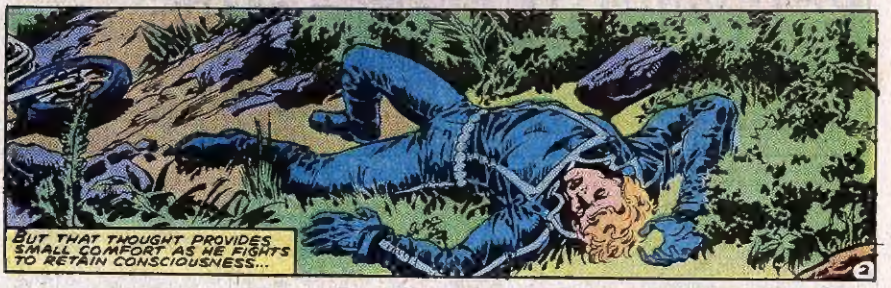

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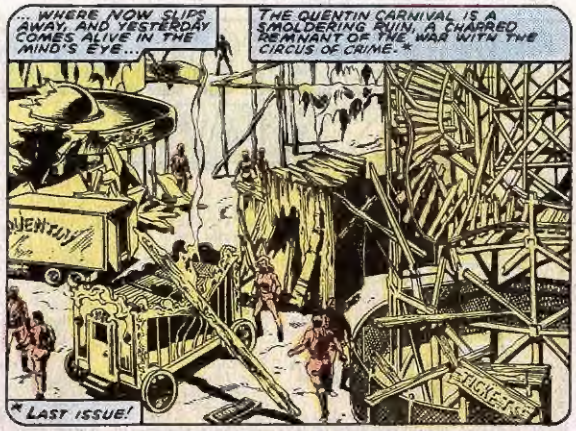

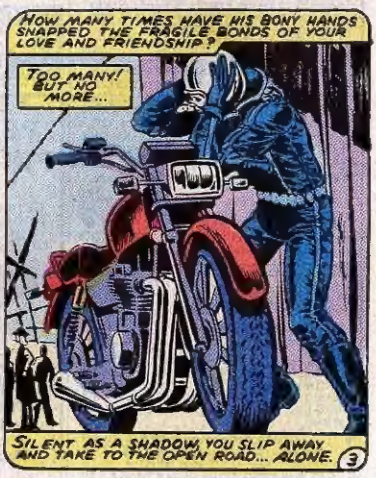

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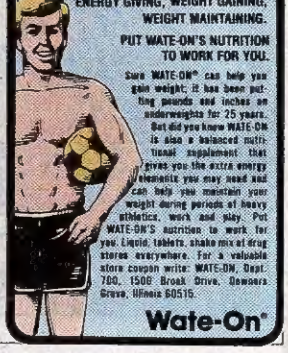

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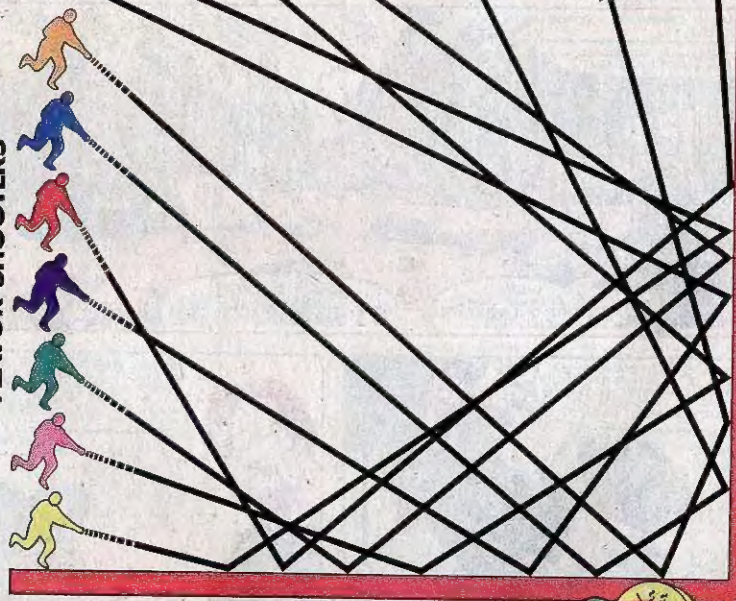

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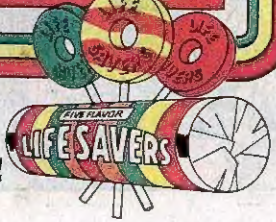

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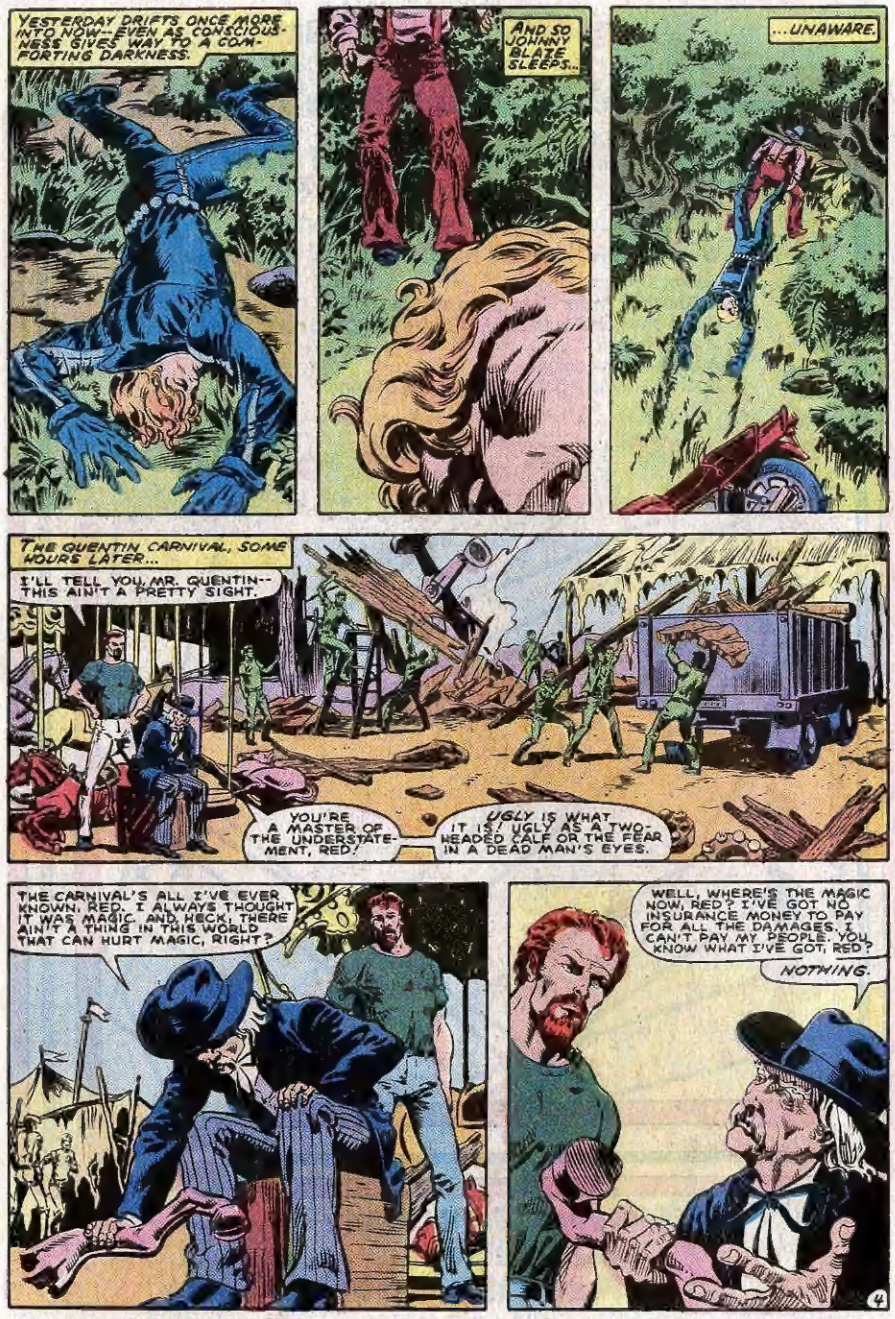

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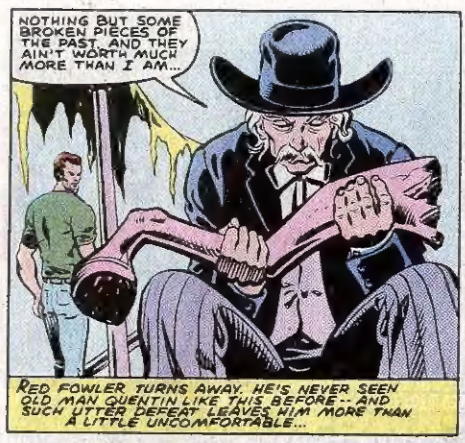

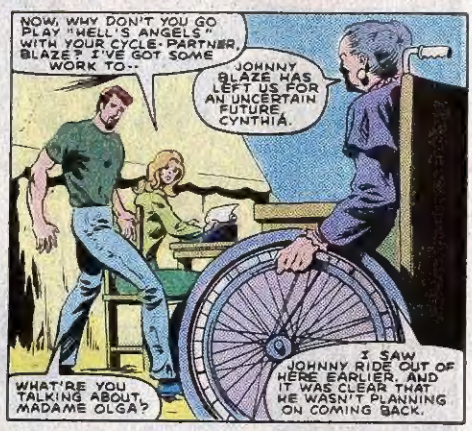

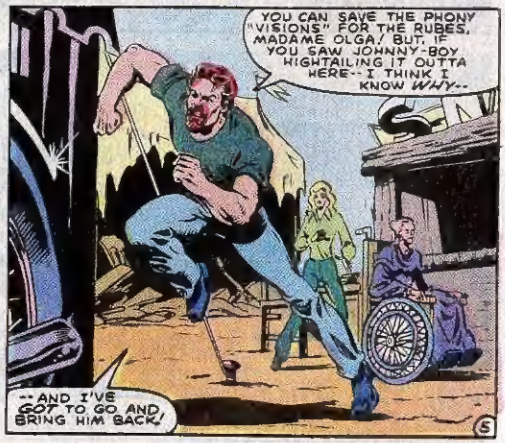

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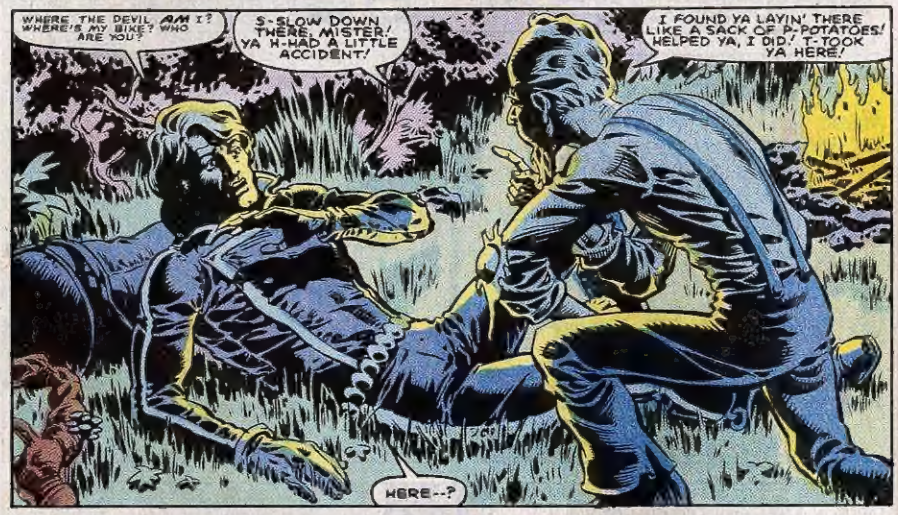

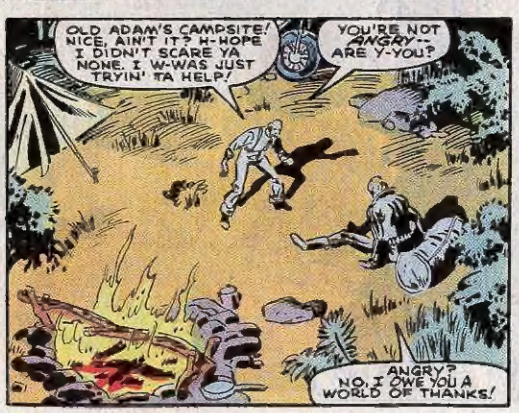

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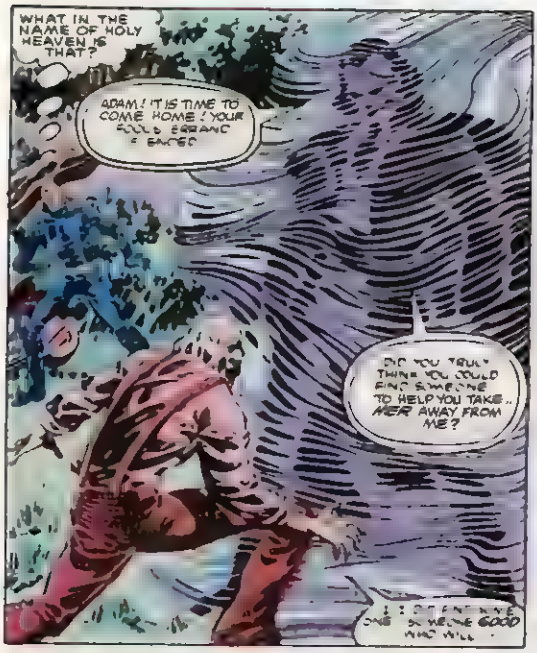

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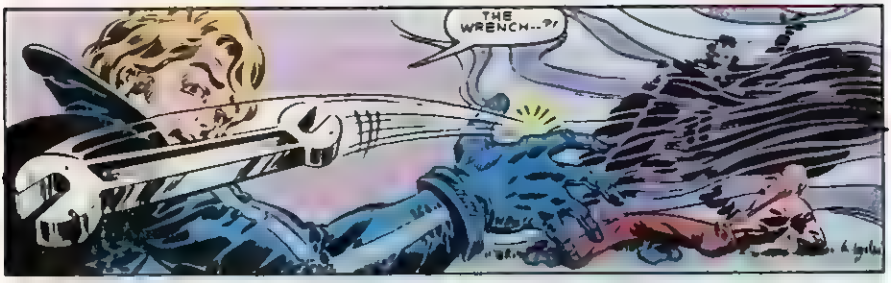

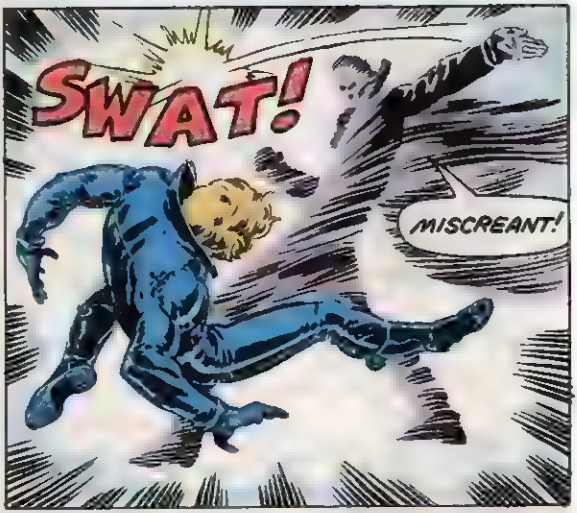

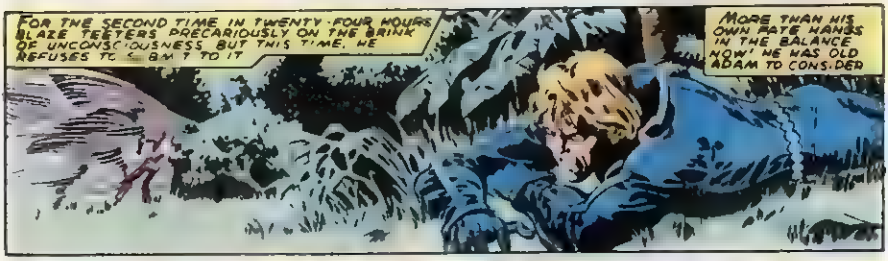

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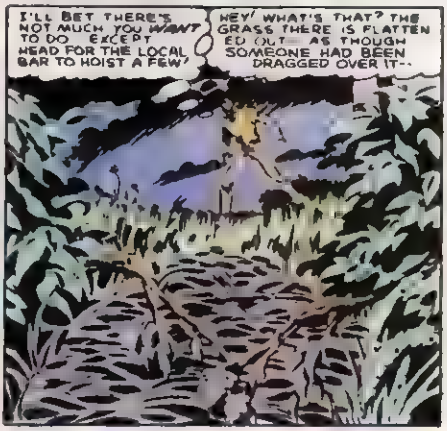

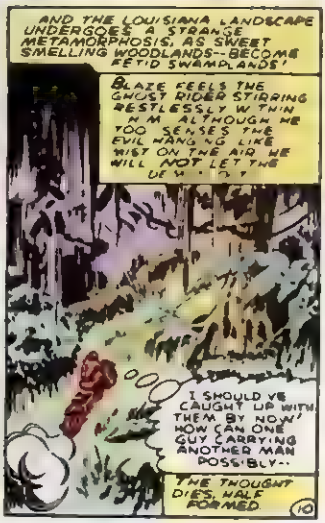

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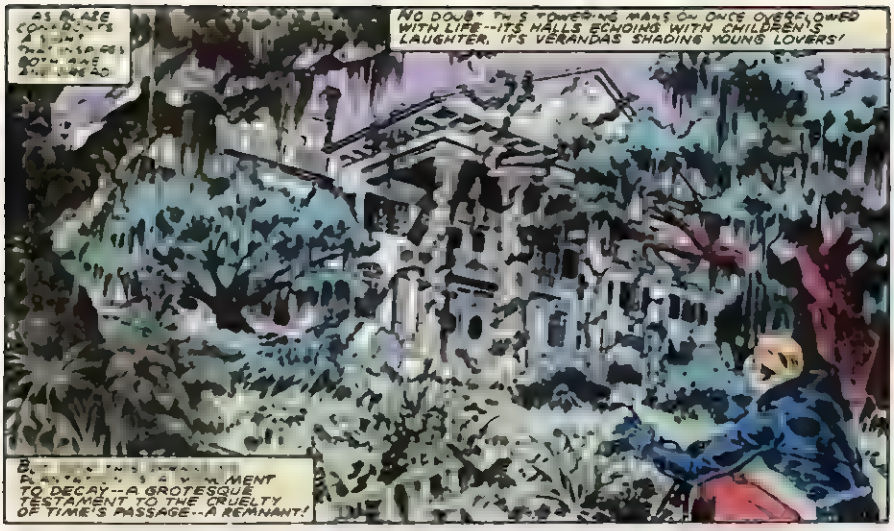

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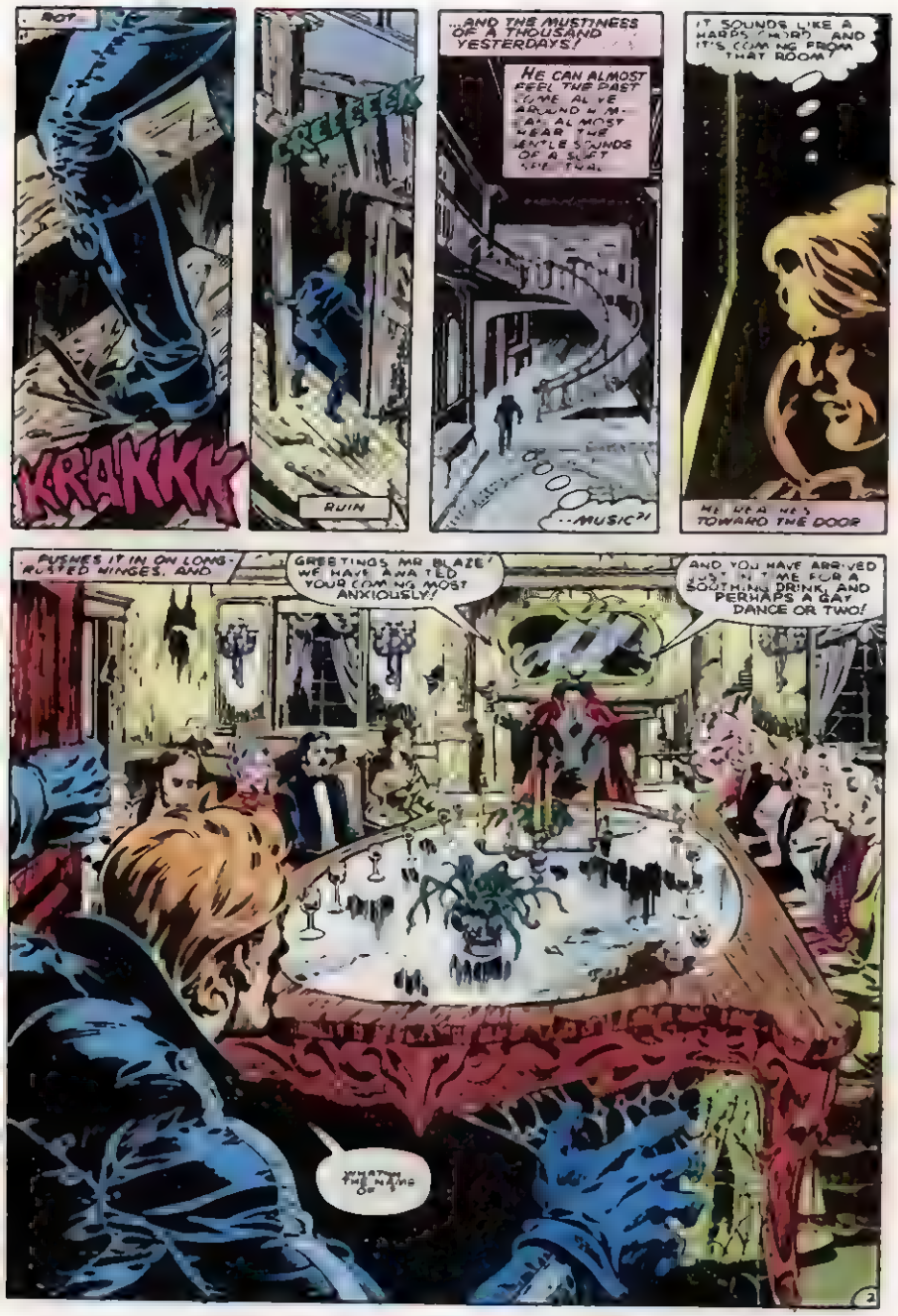

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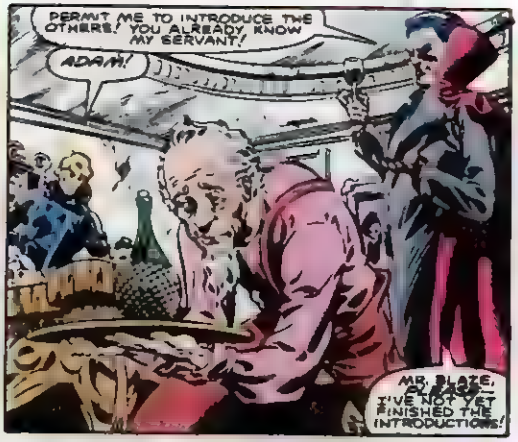

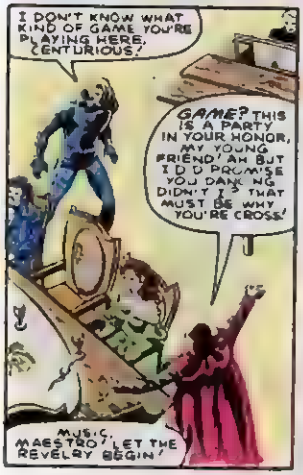

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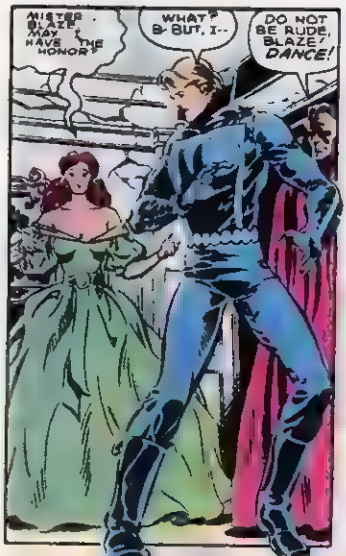

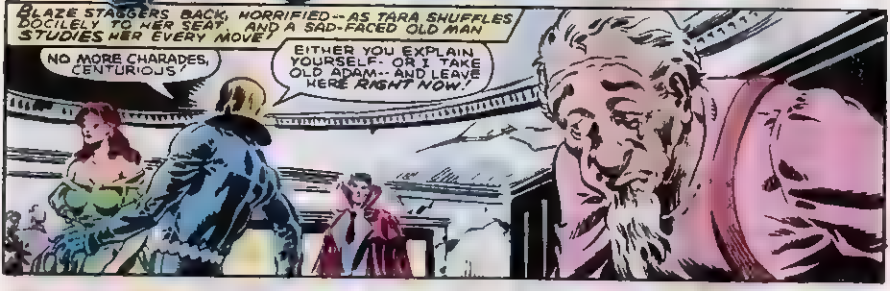

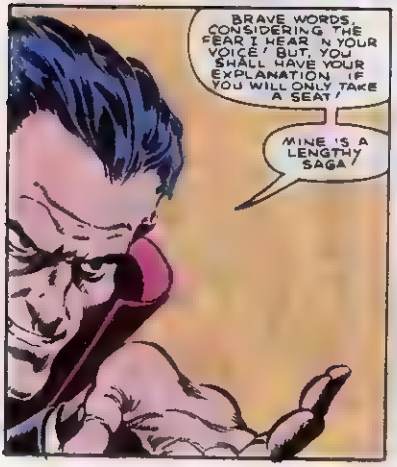

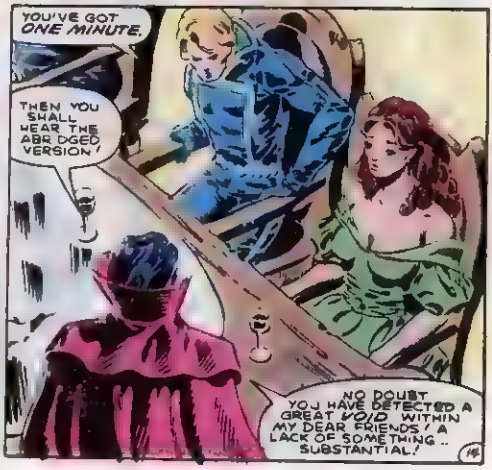

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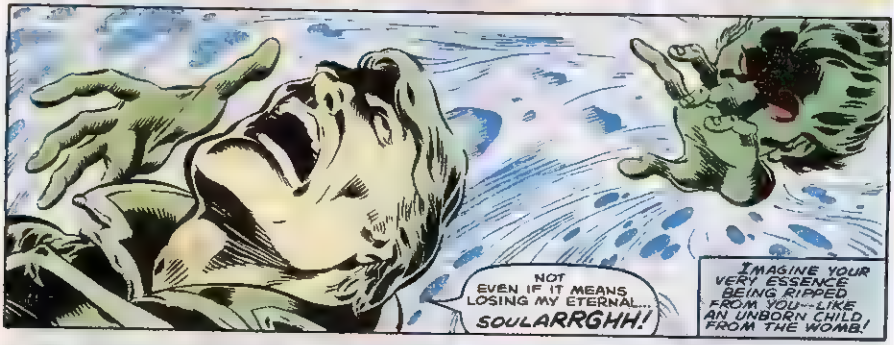

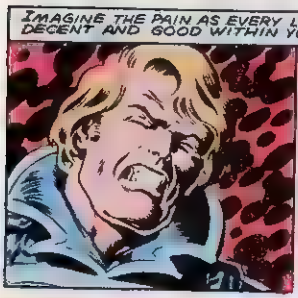

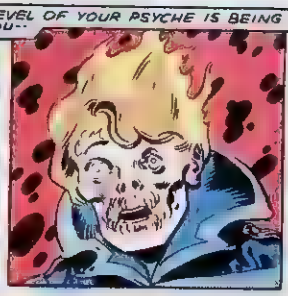

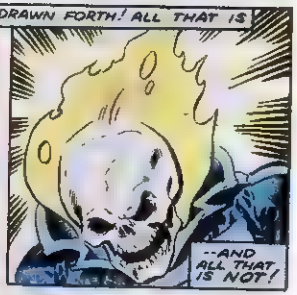

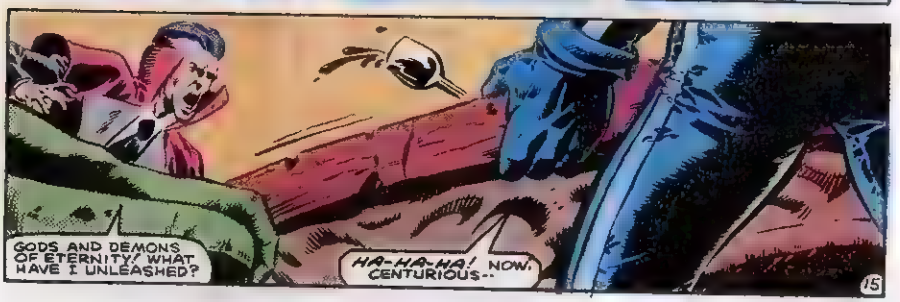

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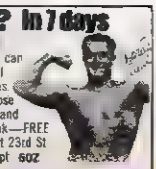

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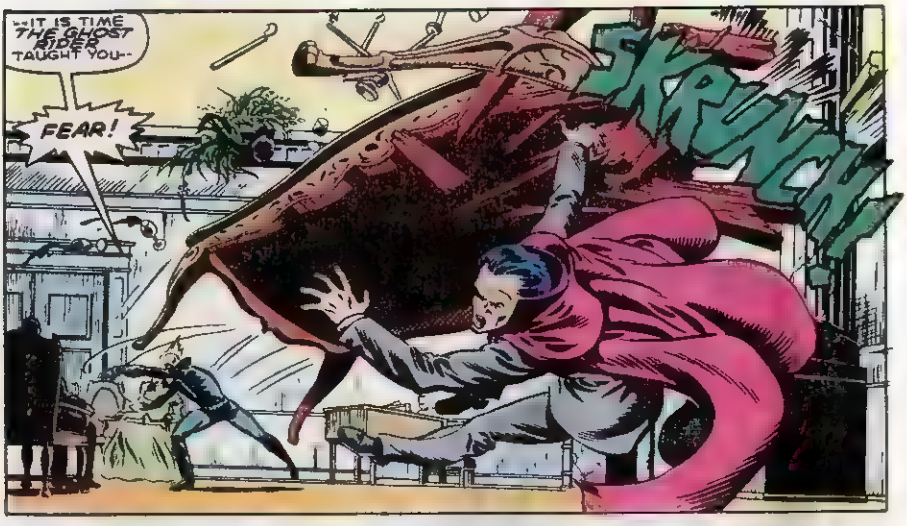

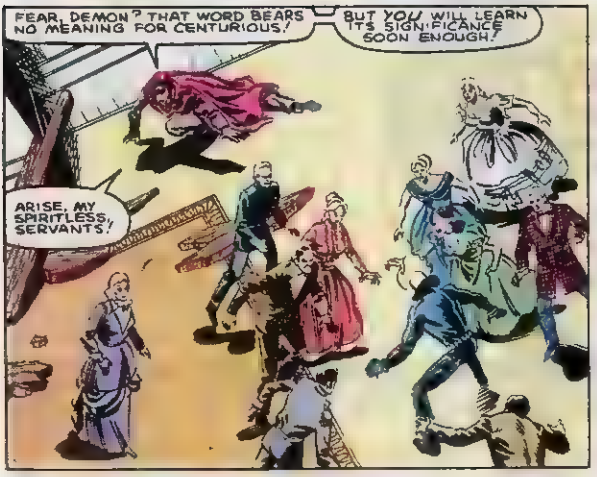

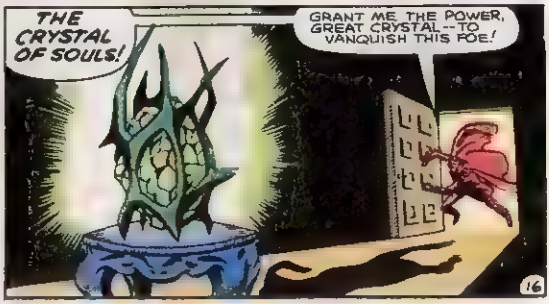

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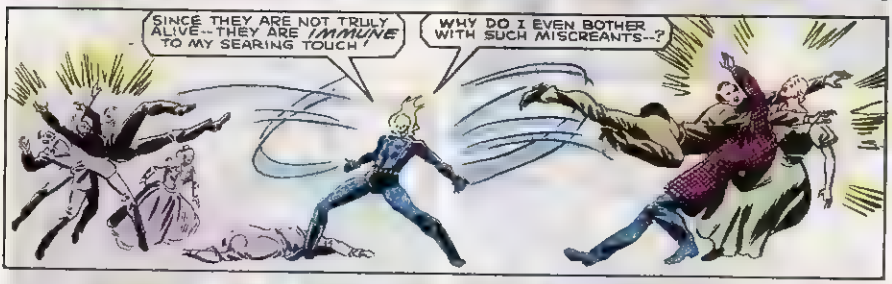

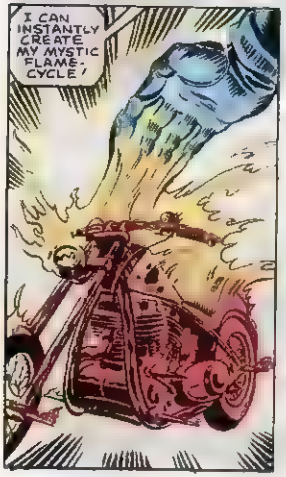

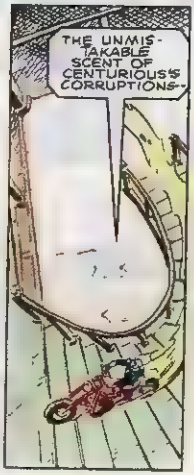

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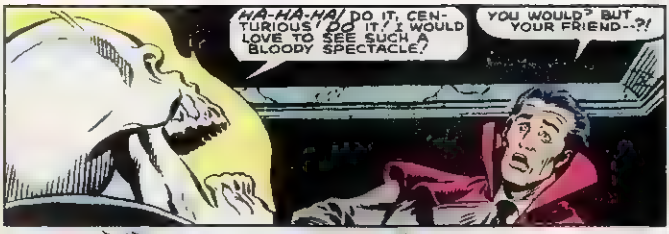

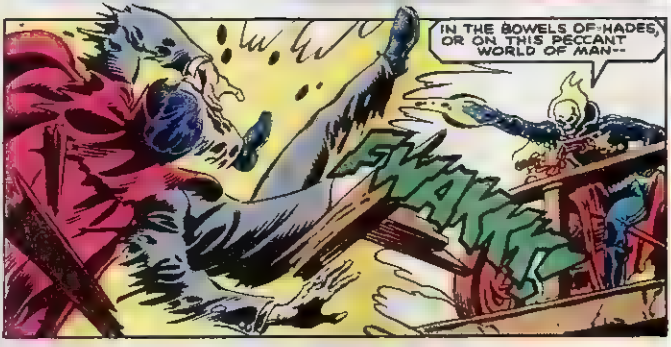

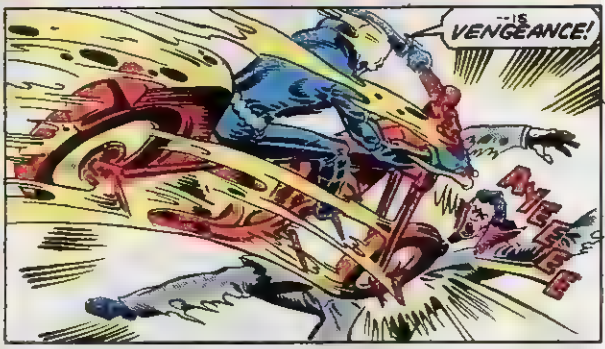

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AS HE'S DONE SO MANY TIMES BEFORE, THE GHOST RIDER WRAPS HIS VICTIM IN A SHROUD OF SOUL-SHRIVELING HELLFIRE! AND, IN RESPONSE, CENTURIOUS..

...LAUGHS?!

FOR, RISING UP OUT OF HIM, ARE TEN TIMES TEN THOUSAND SHRIEKING SOULS--

--EACH ONE DISTINCT! EACH ONE UNIQUE! ONE IN PARTICULAR..

...TOUCHES AN OLD MAN'S HEART--AND BREAKS IT!

TARA!

AND WHAT OF THE GHOST RIDER?

HE IS SWEPT BACK BY THIS GALE OF SOULS!

UNTIL, AT LAST, THE DEMON IS DRIVEN DOWN...

...AND THE MAN REEMERGES!

YOU UNDERSTAND NOW--DON'T YOU, BLAZE--WHY YOUR DEMON'S FLAME COULD NEVER DEFEAT ME!

I HAVE NO SOUL OF MY OWN! BUT THOSE WRETCHES I HAVE CONSUMED SUFFERED AT THE GHOST RIDER'S HANDS!

THE GAME IS ENDED BLAZE! CENTURIOUS STILL LIVES AND YOU ARE FINISHED!

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GHOST WRITERS!

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR
LINDA GRANT
ASSISTANT EDITOR

INTRODUCING... LOVELY LINDA GRANT!

Did I just hear you say, "Who?" Well then, I guess it's time for us to get better acquainted. I'm the new assistant editor of these pages. That means I get to share an office with Two-Fisted Tom DeFalco - and to remind him when our sourball supply needs to be replenished.

A bit of background: I was born in Yonkers, a suburb of New York City. I've done quite a bit of traveling and finally decided to call "The Big Apple" home. After renting an apartment here with a fearless fifteen pound cat named Sasha, I found a job at Marvel Comics as secretary to the Editor-in-Chief, Jim Shooter.

One recent Friday afternoon, Tom made two momentous decisions: he quit smoking the smelly cigars he used to torture us with, and he asked me to take over as his new assistant (my predecessor, Mark Gruenwald, had been promoted to full editor). Applauding the demise of Tom's cigars, I accepted his offer. And a new editorial team was born.

Well, I'd like to go on (and possibly discuss the great bratwurst stands of Heidelberg), but there's work to be done.

Dear Tom

Every time I read (or re-read) something Roger Stern has written, I want to write and tell you how good it was! This time it's GHOST RIDER #70. It was a great story, and made me stop and think awhile. Despite Jeremy's physical appearance, he was as human as you or I. Many people fail to realize that a person's true beauty comes from the heart and soul — not from the outside shell. I wish Jeremy could have been a member of the cast for longer than one issue.

Now comes my one complaint. Cynthia Randolph is exceeded only by Heather Glenn (Daredevil's current fiancée) in terms of sheer detestability. Please get rid of her.

W. Neville
426 Tusculum
Cincinnati, OH 45226

Dear Editor

After reading three issues of GHOST RIDER since the new team took over, I think I can safely say that the Stern/Budiansky team is the best collaborative duo ever featured in this mag. The stories just keep getting better. "Freaks," issue #70, has brought a new standard of greatness to the Brimstone Biker, and I think I know why this issue was special. Rereading #70, I realized that GR didn't even appear until page 16. My point is that this issue brought a new accomplishment in Johnny's harrowing life. In the past, Johnny would always try to restrain his "dark side" in moments of stress, yet he usually failed, and Ghost Rider was released to wreak vengeance on the world. "Freaks" was unique because, for a change, Johnny Blaze successfully held back the Ghost Rider during a fierce attack — where he usually would have given up and allowed GR to take over. This may sound trivial, but I consider it (as I'm sure Johnny himself does) a major turning point in Mr. Blaze's life.

Artwise, Bob Budiansky is one of the two best Ghost Rider artists in history (the other being Don Perlin). I like actually seeing GR's skeletal form, rather than just his skull and a lot of leather. It adds realism to the story.

Finally, I'd like to nominate Renaldo, of this issue, as the most despicable, cruel and gutless character of the still-young year. His cowardice, cruelty and exploitative activities have surpassed that of any other Marvel baddie!

Dave Schmidt
134 Senator Street
Brooklyn, NY 11220

That's very true, Dave — but, as you said, the year's still young!

Dear Tom

I have just finished GHOST RIDER #70. It was so good that I had to write a letter. I don't usually read GHOST RIDER, but when I heard that there was a new writer and artist, I had to check it out. My congratulations on a job well done (this goes to everybody).

I do have one question though. When the Ghost Rider had no shirt on he was bony, but when he put on the leather suit he had muscles. How come? My theory is that the Ghost Rider can control the fire around him, thus making the heat expand into the shape of muscles.

Jeff Tompkins
7817 Lamar St.
Arvada, CO 80003

Your theory is good, Jeff, but it isn't quite on target. We'll explain how GR's flame and body work together in a future issue. Unless some other enterprising reader would like to try his hand...

Dear Tom:

Somehow, a long time ago, I wrote GHOST RIDER off as a cheap supernatural comic, and never bothered to look at an issue before #67. Too bad. Let me tell you that these last three issues (67-69) are some of the best stuff I've read in a good while.

This letter may not have much to do with the current issue, but I just wanted to tell you guys what a good job you're doing — and that you've got a new convert.

Mark Welch
134 Little John Road
Williamburg, VA 23185

Thanks, Mark, and welcome to the fold.

Dear Mr. DeFalco

I just want to say thank you. The Ghost Rider is better than ever. "Freaks" was a powerful story, and I was very touched by Jeremy. It was really his story, about his rejection by other people, his constant battle with his ugliness, and the fact that if people looked beyond his physical appearance, they'd discover a good, sweet man. He probably made the wisest decision — to leave the carny and go with his brothers. Let's see another appearance soon, please.

I think you've got the best possible art team on the book. Budiansky and Simons are fantastic. Every panel is heaven!

Dave Pfeil
52 Finger St.
Saugerties, NY 12477

Don't ever use *that word* in GR's presence, Dave!

Dear Tom

"I recently bought GHOST RIDER #70. If it only costs 60¢ for this much action, you've got a GHOST RIDER fan for life! Issue #70 had everything a comic should have: a good cover, excellent artwork, and a great story.

David Asselin
(no address)
Pawtucket, RI

Dear Tom

GHOST RIDER #70 was the best comic I've ever read. I started collecting GHOST RIDER last year, and I just can't stop. The art and stories have been great, but #70 was exceptionally good. This was the first Ghost Rider story I've read that evoked pity for someone other than Johnny Blaze. Jeremy was a character that I really got to know just by reading about him.

I do have one request: How about a supernatural battle between Ghost Rider and Dr. Strange?

Alan Eisenberg
(no address)
Fairfax, VA

Nope! GR and Doc have fought in the past. Neither enjoyed it much.

Dear Tom:

GHOST RIDER has been getting better with every issue — and issue #70 was ultra-fantastic! Take it from me, an average hardcore Ghost Rider fan: "Freaks" was one of the best GHOST RIDER issues yet!

Philippe R. Dejean
1796 Grand Concourse
Bronx, NY 10457

Thanks, Philippe, I'll take it!

Dear Editor

Issue #70 was the first issue I've ever read of the GHOST RIDER. It definitely won't be the last!

Stephen Lacy
P.O. Box 15
Monroe, OH 45050

Dear Tom

GHOST RIDER #70 prompted me to write this letter. It seems as though every time Johnny Blaze gets into trouble, he is hesitant about releasing his demon side. Countless times Johnny would have been killed if it hadn't been for the Ghost Rider. Issue #70 is an example. Johnny owes the Ghost Rider.

Ted Stratton
5101C Winton Road
Fairfield, Oh 45014

That may be true, Ted, but Johnny never asked to be cursed with the demon in the first place. What do you other Ghost Readers think? Is Johnny just being ungrateful?!

Tom DeFalco

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BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN LEE'S OLD JOB

...for better or worse is in my hands. Yes, I'm the Editor-in-Chief of the entire Marvel Comics line, and I love it! Tomorrow the world!

BUT FIRST, THIS IMPORTANT MESSAGE!

Last month I mentioned (barely) something called EPIC COMICS! I promised to tell you more about them this month. And so.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE *EPIC COMICS GROUP!*

A lot of our ideas start with a "What if...?" A while back, Archie Goodwin, who's the Editorial Director of *EPIC Illustrated Magazine*, was sitting in a corner of the Bullpen sulking because his Associate Editor, Mary Jo Duffy, is so brilliant and efficient that he's always winding up with too much spare time. As I was walking by, I noticed Al Milgrom pull up a chair beside Archie to console him. Al, as if you didn't know it, is the genius editor of *Marvel Fanfare*, a few other terrific series, and the outrageously successful Marvel Graphic Novel, *The Death of Captain Marvel* (it was only the best-selling trade paperback in the country early this year!). Not being one to miss out on a chance to loom over people, I, too, joined Arch in his corner.

My keen mind instantly deduced the cause of the problem. "Arch," I said in a wise, fatherly tone, "what you need is more work!" Staring into the sludge in the bottom of his coffee cup, Arch slowly, quietly muttered, "What if.. what if we got together some of the best comics creators available."

"Arch, um... that's our *job*, man! That's what we *always* do!" said Al, looking concerned that Goodwin had finally flipped.

"Let him finish, Al!" said I. "He may be onto something. I hope..."

Still staring into his cup, Archie continued. "We'll get the best! The very best! We'll pay them a *lot* of money so they can take their time..." He looked up, wild-eyed, his voice growing louder. He uttered each word as though it were meant to be carved onto stone tablets. "...AND THEN WE'LL LET THEM DO WHATEVER THEY WANT!" He was shouting.

"Shhhh!" I said. "You'll wake Hobson!" Mike Hobson, of course, is our Vice-President of Publishing. He doesn't really take afternoon naps in his office, but I started that rumor hoping to keep the noise level down in the Bullpen.

"Don't you see?" Goodwin hissed. "We'll encourage them to go nuts! All new characters! All new universes! New concepts! *A whole new line of comics!*"

"How's that different from *EPIC Illustrated*... or our Graphic Novels, Arch?" I asked softly, trying not to upset him further. Clearly, he was already raving.

"I'm talking about *comics*! Not short stories! Not limited runs! Not novels or one-shots! I'm talking *comics!*"

"You mean... you're talking about new, ongoing titles, like *The Amazing Spider-Man*?"

"Yes! New series! But *not* like Spider-Man! Different! Weird, even! But just as great!" Arch was shouting at me again. Meanwhile a light seemed to go on in Al's eyes.

"Yeah... *Yeah!*" said Milgrom. "I can see it now! We'll print on good, white paper... in full color!"

"We'll offer great deals to creators!" I added, catching on. "Incentives to make 'em pull out the stops and create! Special contracts, like the Graphic Novels and *EPIC Illustrated* use—that'll bring the superstar talent running!"

"Wait! What'll we *call* the new line?" Al beckoned. The entire Bullpen answered him.

"*THE EPIC COMICS GROUP!*" They were on their feet, cheering.

"Your problem is solved, Arch," I said, smugly. But he was sitting again, hunched over, staring at the sludge. "Hey, what's wrong?" I asked.

"This is a *big* project," he muttered without looking up, "I don't know if I have time to fit it in. I may need another assistant."

THUS, IT BEGAN!

Something like that, anyway. I'm pleased to announce that the first issue of our first *EPIC COMICS GROUP* series will go on sale in October. It's called *Dreadstar!* It's by Jim Starlin, and it's everything that such a historic premiere issue ought to be. It'll be on sale through stores serviced by our Direct Distributors only. It'll be priced at $1.50 and a steal at that price. I confidently predict that its value as a collector's item will quickly soar.

If you don't live near a collector's store or another outlet serviced by a Direct Distributor, I'd suggest that you avail yourself of the special subscription offer below. That way you can be sure to get *every* issue!

STAN LEE'S NEW JOB...

...the one glommed onto a couple of years back, as V.P. of Creative Affairs, which entails being creative boss, big deal producer and high-cosmic muckamuck for Marvel's film studio, *Marvel Productions*, is keeping him *very* busy. Why so, you say? Well, I've managed to talk Stan *himself* into explaining what's up in Hollywood in a special Stan's Soapbox appearing on this page next month! That's quite a feat, considering how busy he is with the *four* new shows and... oops! Almost stole his Hollywood Mogul-ship's lines! I'd better cool it...

Till Next Month!

Shooter

THE HYPE BOX

DAZZLER #21 The story so dramatic, so moving, we had to make this issue double-sized to contain it. Featuring the shameful secrets of Dazzler's mother, the loss of Lenny Blaire, Dazzler's Carnegie Hall debut, and more super-hero guest-stars than you can imagine! And don't miss the issue's sensational, shattering *photo-cover!*

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #234 This time for sure, in addition to our usual SYTRIN ROMITA JR. Spider-Man magic, there's a special free bonus insert for you this month: the *Marvel Comics Guide to Collecting Comics*.

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

- ☐ MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #93 — The Thing and Machine Man and Jonasta!
- ☐ TEAM AMERICA #6
- ☐ KING CONAN #13
- ☐ G.I. JOE #5
- ☐ DAZZLER #21
- ☐ KA-ZAR #20
- ☐ DENNIS THE MENACE #13
- ☐ DARE DEVIL #168
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #234
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #275
- ☐ THOR #325
- ☐ MICRONAUTS #47
- ☐ GHOST RIDER #74
- ☐ MOON KNIGHT #35
- ☐ HERCULES (Limited Series) #3
- ☐ CONAN THE MOVIE #2
- ☐ WOLVERINE (Limited Series) #3
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #277
- ☐ AVENGERS #226
- ☐ CONAN #140
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #146
- ☐ X-MEN #163
- ☐ IRON #36
- ☐ POWER-MAN/IRON FIST #87
- ☐ VISION AND SCARLET WITCH (Limited Series) #1
- ☐ ANNIE #2
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #249
- ☐ MARVEL TEAM-UP #129 — Spider-Man and Dracula!!
- ☐ IRON MAN #164
- ☐ PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #72
- ☐ DEFENDERS #113
- ☐ STAR WARS #66
- ☐ MASTER OF KUNG FU #119
- ☐ BLADE RUNNER #2

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ CRAZY #91
- ☐ THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #81
- ☐ BIZARRE ADVENTURES #34
- ☐ MARVEL FANFARE #6
- ☐ EPIC #14

MARVEL ANNUALS

- ☐ ROM ANNUAL #1
- ☐ X-MEN ANNUAL #6
- ☐ MARVEL TEAM-UP ANNUAL #6
- ☐ CONAN ANNUAL #7
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA ANNUAL #6
- ☐ STAR WARS ANNUAL #2
- ☐ THOR ANNUAL #10

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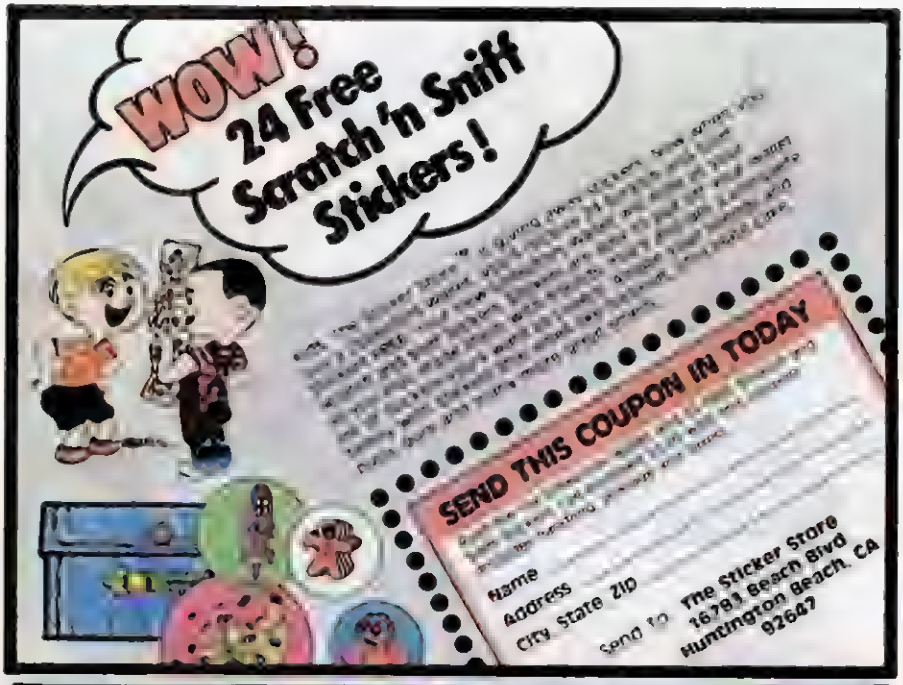

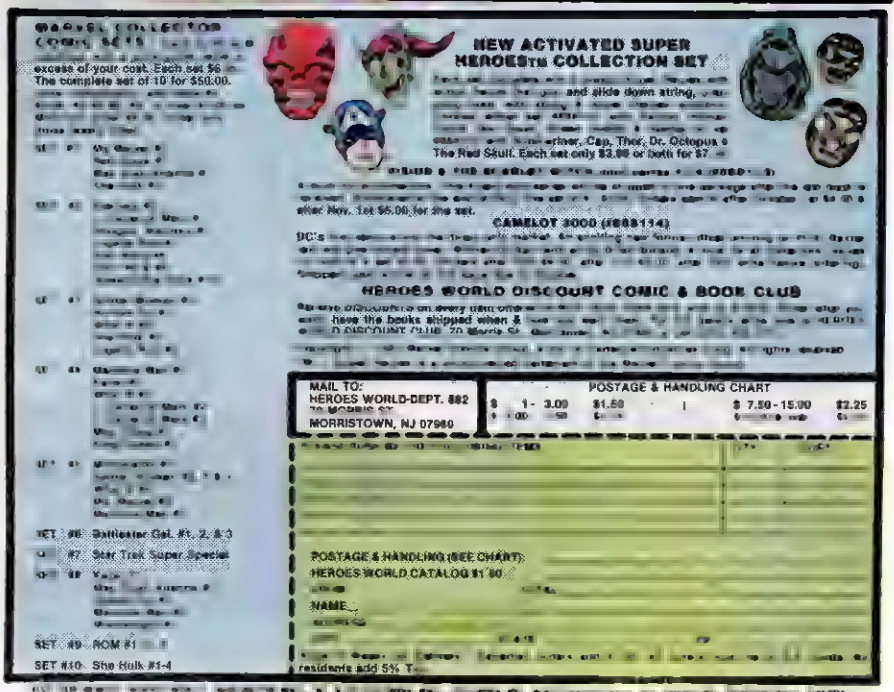

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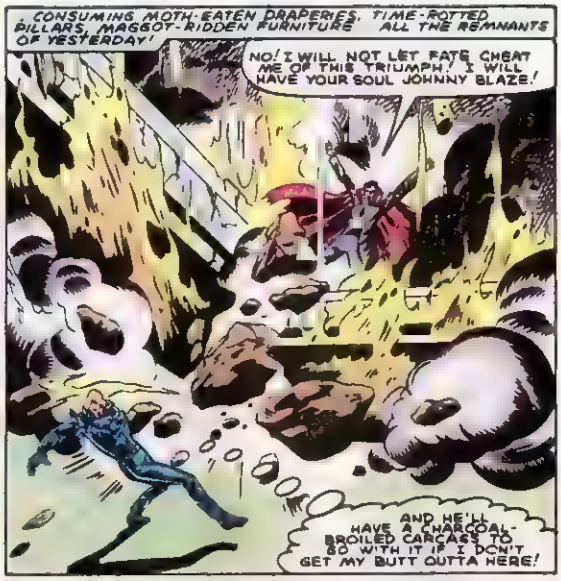

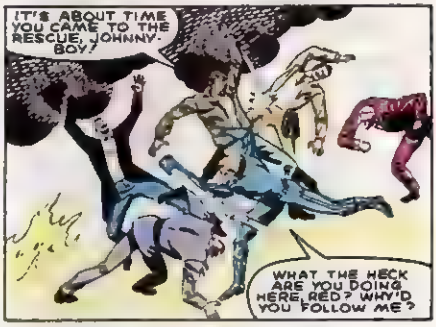

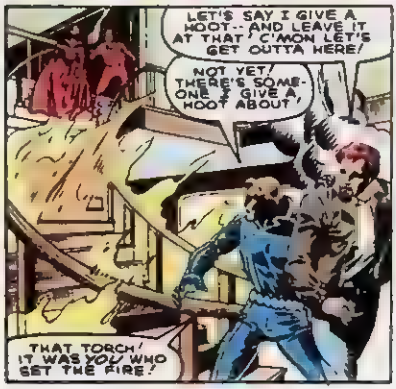

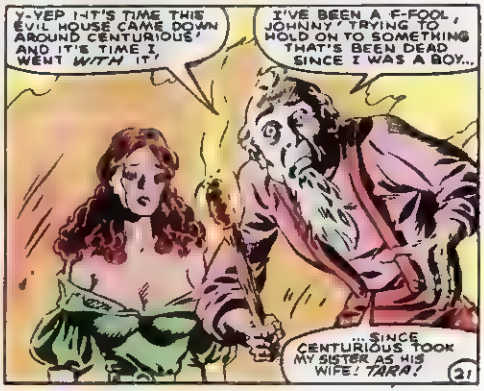

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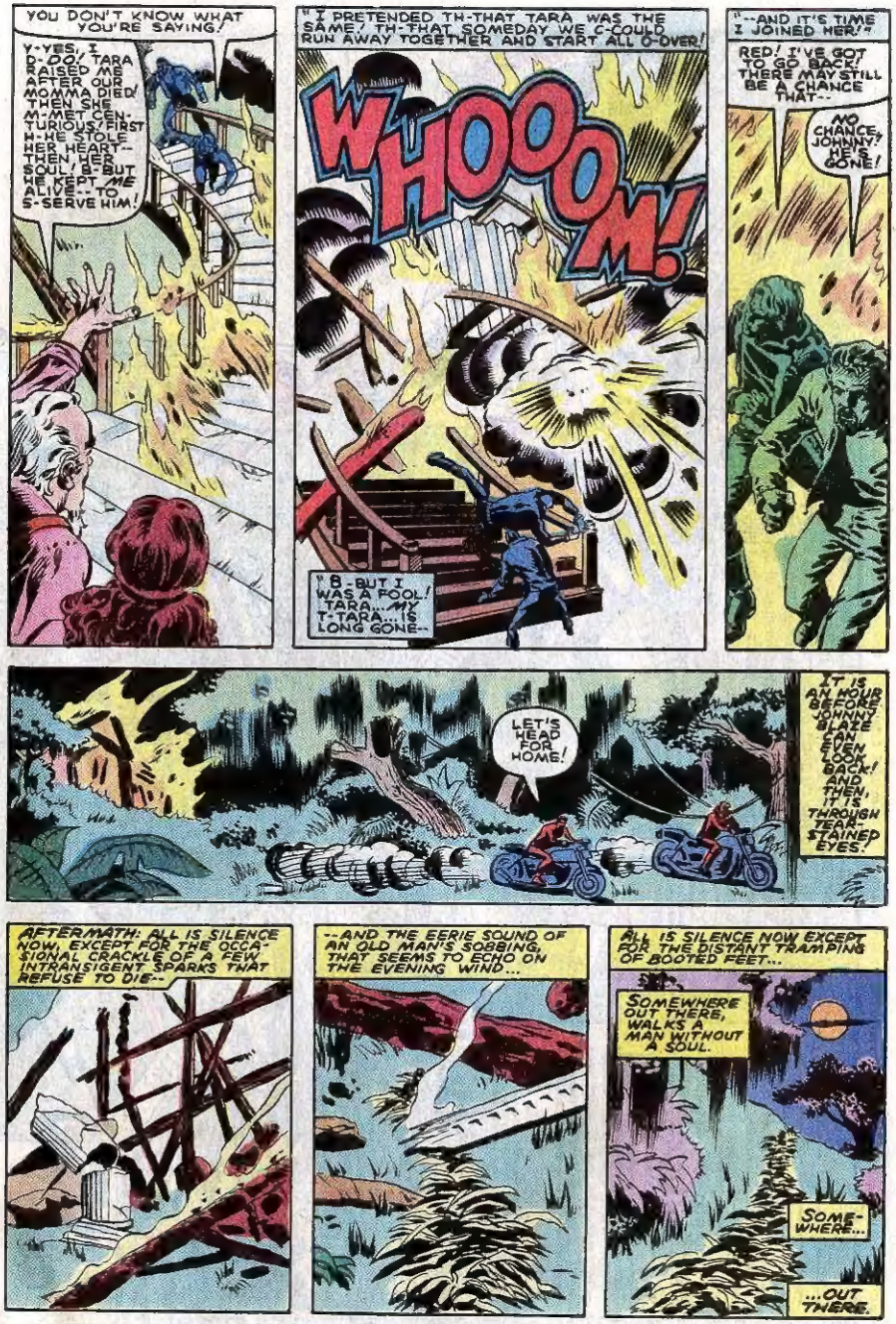

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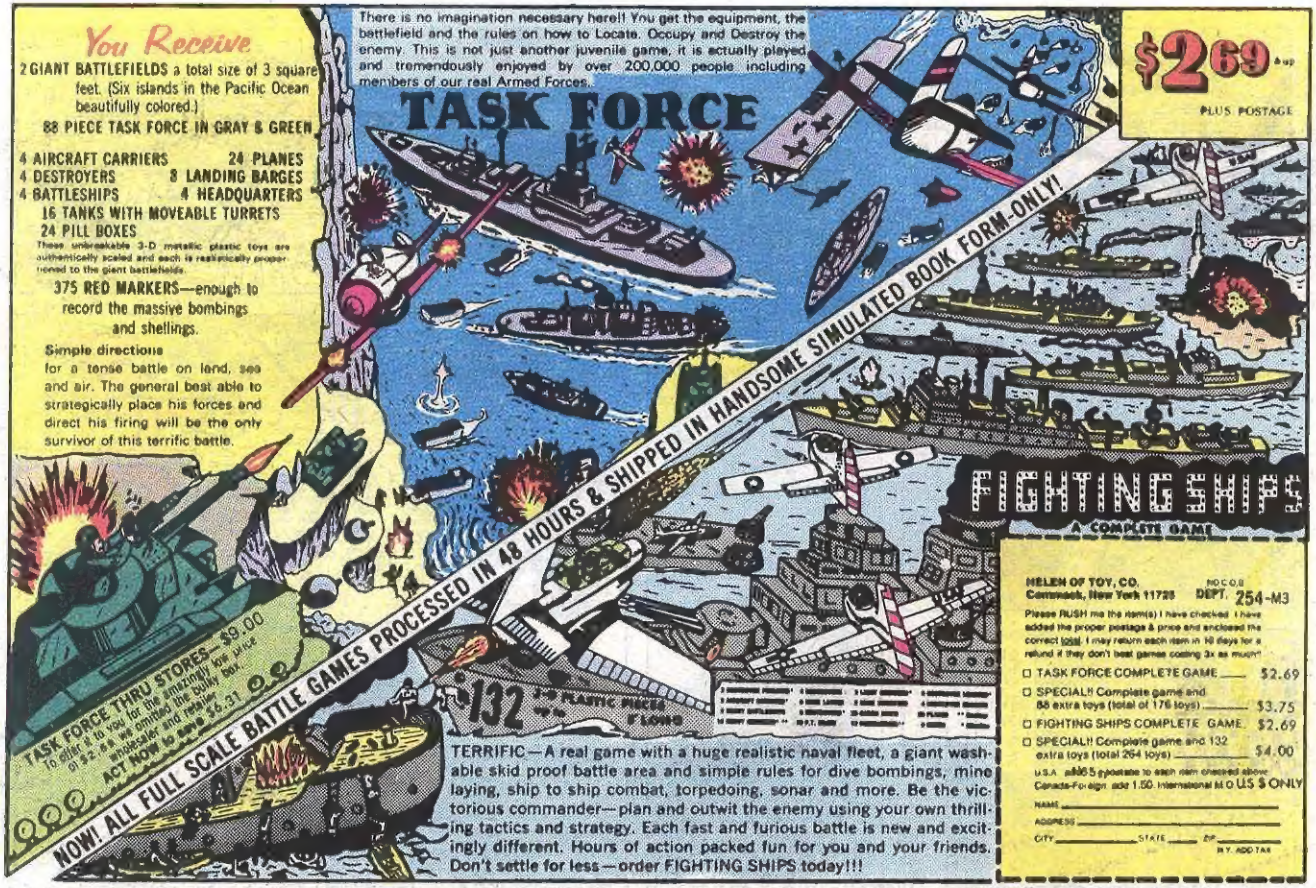

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